

**In the Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a mail sorting device having a plurality of partition elements supported upon a frame, each of the partition elements having a configured leading edge, a plurality of compartments into which items are placed in a generally upright manner, each of said plurality of compartments being at least partially defined between a pair of partition elements, and a bottom; and

a folder device for receiving items and being generally vertically supported upon the bottom, said folder device having a pair of sides, each side being associated with one of the partition elements, each side having a forward edge, wherein the forward edges of the sides are at different heights relative to the leading edges of the associated partition elements, and wherein one of the forward edges is shaped substantially similar to the configured leading edge of the partition whereby the configured leading edge of the partition and one of the forward edges of the folder device are generally adjacent along a substantial portion of the configured leading edge.

2. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bottom is movable relative to the frame between a first orientation and a second orientation.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the folder device includes addressee indicia on a surface thereof.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the folder device includes a splay structure tending to force the folder device into an open configuration when the folder is placed between the partitions of the sorting device.

6. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the folder device includes a generally planar bottom which engages the bottom of the sorting device.

7. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a mail sorting device having a plurality of partition elements supported upon a frame, each of the partition elements having a configured leading edge, a plurality of compartments into which items are placed in a generally upright manner, each of said plurality of compartments being at least partially defined between a pair of partition elements, and a bottom for supporting the items; and

a folder device for receiving items, said folder device being generally vertically supported by the bottom between a pair of adjacent partition elements, said folder device having a pair of sides, each side being associated with one of the partition elements, and each side having a forward edge, wherein the forward edges are differently configured so that one of the forward edges extends to a greater height above the leading edges of the partition elements than the other, and wherein one of the forward edges is shaped substantially similar to the configured leading edge of the partition whereby the configured leading edge of the partition and one of the forward edges of the folder device are generally adjacent along a substantial portion of the configured leading edge.

8. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the bottom of the sorting device has a first orientation and a second orientation, in the first orientation the bottom supports the items in a generally upright manner.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the folder device includes addressee indicia on a surface thereof.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the folder device includes a splay structure tending to maintain the folder device in an open configuration when the folder is placed between the partitions of the sorting device.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the folder device includes a generally planar bottom which engages the support structure in the first orientation.

13 – 27 (withdrawn)

28. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a mail sorting device having a plurality of partition elements, each of the partition elements having a configured leading edge, and a plurality of compartments being at least partially defined between a pair of partition elements; and

a folder device placed within a compartment for receiving items, said folder device having a pair of sides, each side being associated with one of the partition elements, wherein one of the sides has a reveal structure so that the other side extends to a greater extent above the

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leading edge of its associated partition element, and wherein one of the forward edges is shaped substantially similar to the configured leading edge of the partition whereby the configured leading edge of the partition and one of the forward edges of the folder device are generally adjacent along a substantial portion of the configured leading edge.

29. (currently amended) An apparatus of claim 28, wherein the configured leading edge is downwardly tapered and generally linear across substantially the entire depth of the partition and the side reveal structure defines a downwardly tapering side shape similar to the configured leading edge and generally linear across substantially the entire depth of the folder device so that configured leading edge of the partition and one of the edges of the folder device are aligned and adjacent across substantially the entire depth of the folder.